Setting up of Health Field survey units in remote areas

4183. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken by Government to set up Health Field Survey Units in remote areas so that health scheme benefits percolate down to the poorest of the poor in remote rural areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any provision has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan to make this scheme a success?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The Health Field Survey Units have been set up in the country to undertake surveys/studies on various health aspects. They do not provide Health Services in any area including remote areas.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Genetic disorders in MIC gasleakage disaster victims

4184. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of victims MIC gas-leakage disaster of December, 1984 have been found to be prone to genetic disorders, as reported in the Statesman of 11th August, 1988;

(b) if so, what are the findings in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto, by way of securing adequate compensation to the victims for the damage suffered by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Pan Masala Hazards

4185. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the editorial note in the Hindustan Times dated 12th August, 1988, which appeared under the caption "Pan Masala hazards";

(b) if so, whether Government are aware that in place of genuine ingredient, Khair of Katechu, an imported chemical, Gambier, is used by Pan Masala manufacturers; and

(c) whether Gambier is imported for tannery factories and has been found to be cancer causing chemical;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Government has seen the editorial note appeared in the Hindustan Times dated 12-8-1988 under the caption "Pan Masala Hazards".

(b) and (c) A report on adulteration of catechu with gambier has been brought to the notice of the Government. The State Governments have been asked to keep a strict vigil on quality of catechu and pan Masala.

Drugs for opthalmic use

4186. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1061 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 3rd August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Hydrocortisone eye drops, on account of their causing of irritation to the eyes, are rarely used;

(b) whether it is a fact that Betamethasone and Dexamethasone eye drops are more safe and are widely used;